

SUNSET FESTIVAL AT PIER 60 ON SAND KEY BEACH

MONDAY AUGUST 18, FROM 11 AM TO 11 PM

There is nothing quite like watching the sunset from the beach. Clearwater hosts a Sunset Festival every night on Pier 60. In addition to the sunset, our favorite time of the beach is after 4-pm, when the families have all headed home for dinner and the beach is quiet, anticipating the end of the day. **We will get some extra sleep and depart for the beach at 11:00 am.**

Sand Key Beach is actually a geographic area on a Gulf Coast barrier island within Clearwater. Sand Key Beach starts just south of Clearwater Pass and continues down the island about 2 miles to the point where Clearwater ends and Belleair begins.

We will spend the majority of our day on Sand Key Beach; then reboard the bus to travel to Pier 60 Clearwater for dinner and the Sunset Festival.

We will arrive at **SAND KEY BEACH** by 1 pm.

Amenities: Concessions, boardwalk, nature trail, outdoor showers, two bath houses with separate changing stalls and restrooms. **There are NO alcoholic beverages allowed.**

Beach Gear: After many calls searching for an equipment vendor we determined there is none. Please bring your own gear. The walk to the beach is short.

There is a concession stand on the beach, but ownership has changed so we can't provide recommendations. There is also a restaurant on Sand Key Beach. It is called **Maggie Mae's** 1261 Gulf Blvd. It offers breakfast and lunch. It closes at 2 pm. And it is a 20 minute walk so you will have to rush. **Otherwise, we suggest you bring a bag lunch or eat something before we depart. Later in the evening you will have the opportunity to have dinner at one of the restaurants around Pier 60.**

Our buses will return to the beach to collect EVERYONE plus your beach gear approximately 4:30pm and we will head to Pier 60. You will have ample time to take a short walk to one of the area restaurants for dinner, even shop a bit and return to Pier 60 for the sunset festivities

Pier 60

The Festival begins 2 hours prior to sunset (which will be at 8:04 pm on August 18) and runs for 2 hours after sunset....or 6:00 pm until 10:00pm. We recommend that you be back at the pier by 7 pm at the latest so you can enjoy the entertainment, browse the artisan vendor items and find a perch on the pier to watch the sunset, that is, if you are not perched in a rooftop bar! At 9 pm we will board our buses to head back to The Villages, arriving around 11 pm.

The activities at Pier 60 Clearwater Beach include the daily Sunset Festival, the Sunset Cinema Movies, street performers, crafters, food vendors, people watching, and more.

If you plan to watch the sunset from one of the rooftop bars, you will probably want to have a substantial lunch since there is mostly finger food on the rooftops.

Last year we walked along the pier and the beach before and after sunset. Street, sidewalks, and boardwalks are all well-lit and easy to navigate. There were a few officers near the beach. We felt very safe among the people out and about enjoying the evening.

Fishing:

Pier 60 has a full-feature fishing pier at its end. If you just want to walk to the end and gaze off into the Gulf there is a \$1 fee, payable in the shop situated on the pier. They also rent fishing poles, sell bait and issue fishing permits, and are run by the City of Clearwater. Daily fishing fees for Seniors is \$8; rod rental is \$10, but you can bring your own gear as well. The night fishing is terrific.

Adventures:

Clearwater Beach has adventures unlike most of the beaches we visit. If you want a sea adventure, the selection at Clearwater is comprehensive. There is the Calypso queen, Dolphin Surfing Adventure, Encounters with Dolphins, and Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise. **All of the adventures board and depart from the Clearwater Beach Marina 25 Causeway Blvd.**

Dolphin Surfing Adventure Tour: The world's largest and most exciting dolphin tour speed boat in Clearwater. The 73' long Dolphin Racer gives you a thrill ride you will never forget. The Dolphin Racer zips along at 35 mph in comfort. \$29 for a 1-hour ride. Dolphin Sightings are guaranteed! starlitecruises.com

Captain Memo's Pirate Cruise offers a Sunset Cruise or a Champagne Cruise that leaves the dock at 4:30 pm and 7 pm with a discounted price for seniors of \$43 including tax. If several of you decide to take the 7 pm cruise, we will delay our departure for home by a few minutes to allow you to disembark from the 2-hour tour and cross the street to board your waiting bus. Reservations for the pirate sunset tour are a must. You can make those by checking their website and following the instructions; www.captainmemo.com. **NOTE: The website gives a new check-in location.**

The Calypso Queen is a 2 hour casual evening cruise with breathtaking views, dancing, and tropical drinks and more. The cruise also offers an optional, delicious **Tropical Island Style Dinner Buffet**; including glazed chicken, beef teriyaki and chilled steamed shrimp. The Cruise Director/DJ provides music for dancing and fun interactive entertainment with a tropical flair. **WHAT'S INCLUDED:** Complimentary beer, wine, rum punch and soft drinks for those with cruise and buffet tickets! **NOT INCLUDED:** Full bar service is available for purchase on board.

Price: \$27.95 cruise only; plus \$24.95 with buffet. Reservations can be made at starlitecruises.com Meeting point: Clearwater Beach Marina, 25 Causeway Blvd Slip #56

Encounters With Dolphins: Staffed with Master Captains, Naturalists, and Biologists, your 1 1/2- 1 3/4 hour trip will be professionally narrated. You will view celebrity homes, natural wildlife, historical information about the Clearwater area and you will see the dolphins in their natural environment. Price: \$27.50 Registrations: encounterswithdolphins.com; departs from: 25 Causeway Blvd Slip #23

Restaurants near Pier 60

Badfins Food & Brew: 215 S. Gulfview Blvd.; a brewpub with music on the patio. badfins.com

Bar Tiki (above Marina Cantina) Mexican

Crabby's Bar & Grill: 333 S. Gulfview Blvd. seafood, steak and sandwiches. crabbysbarandgrill.com **A 15 minute walk!**

Crabby's Dockside (across the street from the beach) 37 Causeway Blvd. crabbysdocksideclearwater.com

Frenchy's South Beach Cafe; 351 S Gulfview Blvd. Grouper sandwiches are their specialty. places.singleplatform.com

Jimmy Crow's Nest Rooftop Bar at Pier House 60 hotel offering cocktails, American fare and panoramic views. jimmycrownsnest.com

Marina Cantina 25 Causeway Blvd. (above Salt Cracker Fish Camp) Mexican, served in a relaxed setting with marina views, a tequila bar and roof deck seating. marinacantina.com

Salt Cracker Fish Camp (across the street from the beach and behind Crabby's) 25 Causeway Blvd. serves American fish, seafood & cocktails on a terrace. saltcrackerfishcamp.com

We, the Pizza 301 S Gulfview Blvd. Suite 105 wethepizza.com